

Marist Brothers Provincialate

Drummoyne.

17 January, 1997.

John MULLINS

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Marist Brother - Province Secretary

STATES:

1. I am a member of the Institute of Marist Brothers (hereinafter called the Order). I was born on the 14 March, 1935 and have been a Marist Brother since 1955. At the time of my profession I adopted the religious name of Brother Elstan. I reverted to my family name Brother John Mullins in 1976.
2. Since entering the Order my appointments have included postings at Marist Brothers establishments at Bondi Beach; REDACTED; Casino; Ayr; REDACTED; North Sydney; Beenleigh; Windsor; Grafton; and then Drummoyne. At the present time I am the Province Secretary and work from Provincial House at Drummoyne.
3. For the purpose of administration the Order in Australia is divided into two Provinces, the Sydney Province which includes most of New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and all of Queensland; and the Melbourne Province which has responsibility for Victoria, part of New South Wales and the western portion of Australia.
4. The management of the Sydney Province is in the hands of the Brother Provincial, (which at this time is Brother Michael Hill) who is assisted by the Provincial Council, which comprises up to seven members of the Order, who meet with the Provincial on a regular basis. The Brother Provincial is nominated by the members of the Order in



the Province and is appointed to the position by the Superior General in Rome. The Brother Provincial is responsible for managing the affairs of the Order, within his Province, for the term of his appointment. The Provincial Council members provide him with advice on any question he might refer to them as a body or as individuals.

5. The Marist Brothers in the Sydney Province is essentially a teaching Order and in that capacity it is involved in providing Brothers, who teach at primary and secondary schools and colleges at various towns and centres. Some of these establishments are directly managed by the Order and others are jointly managed by the Order and the Diocesan Catholic Education Office or Parish Authorities.

6. In my present position as Province Secretary I have the custody and control of the records of the Order. From these I can say that Gregory Joseph Sutton was professed as a Marist Brother in 1970. He trained as a teacher at Champagnat College from 1971 to 1972. He subsequently served as a teaching Brother at the following establishments:

1/73 - 12/75	REDACTED
1/76 - 12/77	Sacred Heart Primary School, Mosman.
1/78 - 12/79	Marist Brothers Primary School, Eastwood.
1/80 - 12/82	Marist Brothers Primary School, Canberra.
1/83 - 12/84	St Thomas More School, Ruse.
1/85 - 10/86	St Carthage's Primary School, Lismore.
11/86 - 12/86	Marcellin Hall, New Zealand. (Personal renewal course).
1/87 - 4/87	St Carthage's Primary School, Lismore. (4/87 is the approximate transfer date from Lismore. The specific date is not recorded.)

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7. It will be noted that his first teaching appointment was at [REDACTED] for the year 1973. I was the Superior for the Marist Brother community at [REDACTED] during that year and Principal of the school. Including myself, there were five members of the Order living in that community.
8. Brother Sutton had left the Scholasticate (Training College) at the end of the previous year. He was a young man, in his early 20's and the posting to [REDACTED] was his first teaching appointment. As I recall he was required to teach primary school children, such classes being exclusively boys. He fitted into the proper running of the community and school and I noticed nothing adverse about his behaviour. He presented as a clean cut, personal member of the Order, who had a good rapport with the children. There was never any complaint, of which I am aware, made against Brother Sutton during the course of that year (1973).
9. I transferred from [REDACTED] at the completion of the 1973 school year and Brother John Holdsworth took up my position as Superior. Brother Sutton was still attached to [REDACTED] at that time. It was in the late 1980's when I first became aware that Brother Sutton may have been involved in sexual activity whilst a member of the Order at [REDACTED]. I was travelling between Brisbane and Cairns and whilst at Brisbane Airport I came into contact with [REDACTED] the father of a former pupil of [REDACTED]. He related to me that his son had committed suicide as a result of not being able to reconcile within himself sexual interference carried out by Gregory Sutton on him as a boy. [REDACTED] was embittered by the loss of his son and the involvement of



Gregory Sutton, who had been considered to be a close family friend. It is my understanding, that the matter had, recent to that time, been reported to Brother Holdsworth who had also been a family friend of Mr REDACTE for quite some years. Brother had in turn advised the Provincial. As mentioned this was possibly in the late 1980's and I was completely taken back when I heard the initial report of the occurrence.

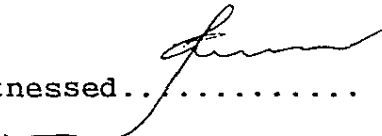
10. This conversation preceded the 1989 revelation concerning Gregory Sutton's behaviour whilst at Lismore. Prior to the conversation with REDACTED I had received some information about the death of the young man, but apart from that I had no other knowledge nor entertained any suspicions which suggested that Gregory Sutton was involved in sexual contact with pupils at the school.

11. Behaviour of the type which was alleged against Brother Sutton, would have required the Superior, upon having notice of such, to bring it to the attention of the Provincial. The Provincials between 1972-87 were as follows:

Up to Sept 1972	Brother Othmar Weldon Marist Brothers (Daceyville)
9/72 - 10/76	Brother Charles Howard. Provincial House - Drummoyne
11/76 - 5/83	Brother Kieran Geaney Marist Brothers Community - Cairns, Queensland.
5/83 - 6/89	Brother Alman Dwyer Marist Brothers Community, Churchlands, Perth, Western Australia

6/89 - 7/95

Brother Alexis Turton.
Marist Brothers Community -
Gladesville.

Witnessed.....


Signed.....
